



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
REGIONAL COUNSEL

October 12, 2012

Reply to
Attn Of: ORC-158

Daniel Opalski
Director, Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: EPA's Response to Lower Willamette Group Opening Submission, dated September 21, 2012; Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, USEPA Docket No. CERCLA-10-2001-0240.

Dear Mr. Opalski:

On behalf of the Office of Environmental Cleanup, I am providing to you EPA's Response to Lower Willamette Group Opening Submission, dated September 21, 2012. The parties to the above-referenced order have agreed that, for this dispute only, you will be the designated decision-maker. A letter of agreement formalizing this arrangement is in process and will be added to the administrative record for this dispute. In accordance with that agreement, the briefing materials for the dispute is also being provided to Rick Albright, current Director of the Office of Environmental Cleanup.

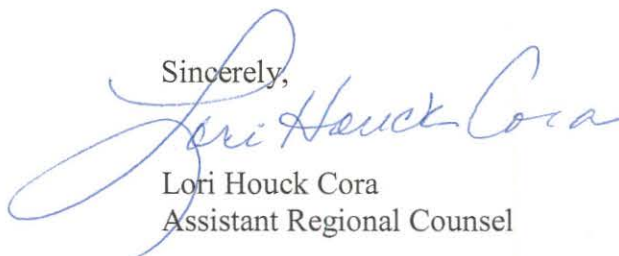
Enclosed with this letter are:

1. The document entitled, EPA RESPONSE TO LOWER WILLAMETTE GROUP OPENING SUBMISSION, dated September 21, 2012; and
2. A compact disc containing the Exhibits referenced in EPA's Response that supplements the supporting documentation attached to the September 21, 2012 Opening Submission.

The Lower Willamette Group has until October 24, 2012 to provide a reply to EPA's Response. A meeting to present each side's positions and answer questions you may have has been scheduled for November 1, 2012, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. in EPA's offices. Also as agreed, Rick Albright will attend the meeting. The meeting time and location are on your calendar.

Please let me or Kristine Koch know if you need any other information about the dispute process. Also, contact one of us if you need any additional documentation or information relevant to this dispute from the Superfund Records Center.

Sincerely,



Lori Houck Cora
Assistant Regional Counsel

Enclosures

cc: w/enclosures

Richard Albright, ECL Director
Steve Parkinson, Joyce Ziker Parkinson, PLLC
Bob Wyatt, Chairperson for LWG